

**Home Visiting Task Force  
Executive Committee Meeting  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
2:00-4:00pm**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:** Diana Rauner (co-chair), Anna Potere, Isolda Davila, Stephanie Franklin, Jay Young, Lesley Schwartz, Gail Nourse, Heather Blankenship, Jay Young, Audrey Moy, Teresa Kelly, Phyllis Bliven, Claire Dunham, Ann Courter, Cindy Zumwalt, Madelyn James, Kelley Washington, Lynn Burgett

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Illinois was recently awarded over \$8.6 million in new federal funding through the FY16 MIECHV formula grant, which will expand direct services to seven new communities and enable funding for some key innovations in home visiting in Illinois.
- The January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

**Home Visiting-Child Welfare Policies and Procedures**

- The Committee reviewed the workgroup's proposed policies and procedures (*see handout for more information*):
  - The language related specifically to modifying HFA eligibility criteria is important because many young parents do not identify their needs until after they are already parenting and extending eligibility will enable more young parents to participate in home visiting programs.
  - The policy related to the 20<sup>th</sup> year will allow young parents to continue to participate in home visiting after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday after emancipation.
  - It was recommended that the workgroup revisit the concept of serving non-custodial mothers and potentially reword it because home visiting is a community support but is not responsible for reunification, which is the responsibility of DCFS and point of service agencies.
- Eight agencies have indicated interest in participating in the pilot, with a possible ninth. The Executive Committee and GOECD will ensure oversight and monitoring of the pilot, particularly for non-custodial cases. TPSN would like to promote these services as an enhancement of participants' existing parenting skills, which makes it very important that they remain voluntary.
- Currently, there are approximately 480 parents and 490 children served statewide through TPSN. Young parents in care are in a variety of settings. The majority of the population is 18-20 years old and some attend traditional schools while others attend alternative schools or are working towards a GED.

**Universal Newborn Support System Update**

- There are two considerations related to implementing Family Connects:
  - All participants enrolled in a home visiting program require the collection of benchmark data. However, since the participants would be referred to another home visiting program versus serving them through Family Connects as a home visiting program, this will not be an issue.
  - If adaptations are made to the Family Connects model (e.g., by using home visitors or doulas instead of nurses), an evaluation will be required. However, an evaluation will be required regardless for the pilot, so there is a need to identify what questions the pilot evaluation would seek to answer and what questions Family Connects would require as part of an evaluation.
- Next steps:
  - Determine what specifically the goals of the pilot are;
  - Identify costs of implementing Family Connects and develop a budget;
  - Convene a call with Family Connects to discuss potential costs and implementation, including evaluation questions; and

- Convene the workgroup to review the proposal for the pilot, including the two pilot communities.

### **Home Visiting Safety White Paper**

- The Ad Hoc Safety workgroup has developed a set of resources for home visiting programs to help mitigate the safety concerns home visitors have in the home and community.
- As a result of the research that the group conducted, it was found that home visiting models and funders expect home visiting programs to have safety policies, training, and/or procedures in place, but that these vary across programs.
- The group also found that there are many resources available to programs to develop policies, training, and/or procedures, but that programs are not necessarily aware of all of these resources. Therefore, the group decided to create an online repository for programs to access these resources through the iGrow website. This will include a series of recorded webinars and sample policies and procedures. This will also be available to others who work in the home, e.g. from EI and child welfare.
- See handout for additional information on recommendations and next steps.

### **MIECHV Grant Updates**

- FY16 Formula Grant:
  - The State was awarded \$8.6M in funding from April 1, 2016 through September 2018. The funding will expand direct services to seven new communities, and will enable funding for innovative projects such as the Home Visiting-Child Welfare Pilot, Home Visiting for Homeless Families Demonstration Project, the Universal Newborn Support System, and infant mental health consultation. It will also continue investments in training and professional development.
  - Letters have not yet been sent out to each of the new communities. It is anticipated that contracts will not be issued until July 1.
- Competitive Grant:
  - There was an opportunity to apply for a 2016 grant, but it was determined that it would be better to prepare for another anticipated opportunity in 2017. The grant amount is likely to be approximately \$2M.

### **Home Visiting Data Report**

- Last year, the Committee reviewed and approved a template for a home visiting data report that will show data on home visiting across all funding streams and data systems in Illinois. Since that time, Lesley Schwartz has been working with the funders to collect the relevant data to complete the report (*see handout for more information*), which the Committee reviewed. The Committee's feedback was that the amount of funding for CPS seems very high, and might include center-based funding as well as home-based.
- Next steps:
  - Lesley will determine the level of CPS funding for home visiting; and
  - Lesley, Anna Potere, and Penny Smith will analyze work previously done by home visiting funders and the Pew Home Visiting Campaign to determine one data point that all home visiting funders should collect and will bring a proposal back to the Committee. It was recommended that income be considered, as well as an outcome-related metric. ISBE commented that they have issued a competitive RFP around the SIS and will be working with whoever gets the contract to determine the list of data elements, so there is an opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback to inform that.

### **HVTF Feedback on Title V 2017 Application/2015 Annual Report**

- The Illinois Department of Public Health is currently working on its 2015 Annual Report and 2017 application for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

- IDPH has requested the input of the Task Force in two areas before April 29<sup>th</sup>:
  - Qualitative reporting on the 2015 plan; and
  - Input on the 10 priorities outlined in the FY2016 application.
- The Executive Committee will have a conference call to determine the Committee's input and there will also be an opportunity to provide input via email.

### **Impacts of Budget Impasse**

- Many home visiting programs, particularly those funded through the DHS budget lines, are reducing staff or not hiring. Additionally, the budget impasse has impacted families' participation in other programs. For example, WIC participation has decreased.
- Because both ISBE and the Governor recommended an additional \$75M for the ECBG, ISBE has been working with the Early Learning Council to determine what the FY18 competition should look like. One of the items being discussed is whether there should be an emphasis on center-based versus home visiting. There is a webinar on May 10 advertised through OECD about the FY18 competition. If the increased funding is approved for FY17, ISBE will have a closed competition for current PI programs to increase quality supports (e.g. staffing, reflective supervision) as well as direct services.

### **ELC Structure**

- The Early Learning Council has been undergoing a process to determine the optimal structure for the Council. The Home Visiting Task Force will remain a standing committee of the Council under this new structure and will continue its work.
- The other committees will be shifting somewhat but we will also continue to work together across committees to ensure that all of our work is aligned, and that it is consistently shared with the Early Learning Council and the newly formed Children's Cabinet.

### **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- The next meeting of the Executive Committee is July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- The next meeting of the full Task Force is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.